

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A printing device configured to perform steps comprising:
 - receiving, at a first module of said printing device, an original command that is intended to cause said printing device to perform an action indicated by said original command;
 - determining whether a translation module that implements logic for translating said original command is installed in said printing device;
 - if said translation module is not installed in said printing device, then sending data that comprises said original command directly from said first module to a second module of said printing device;
 - if said translation module is installed in said printing device, then performing steps comprising:
 - determining whether said original command, without translation, will cause said printing device to perform said action;
 - if said original command, without translation, will cause said printing device to perform said action, then sending said data to said second module; and
 - if said original command, without translation, will not cause said printing device to perform said action, then performing steps comprising:
 - invoking said logic of said translation module to translate said original command into one or more translated commands that will cause said printing device to perform said action; and
 - sending said one or more translated commands to said second module.

1 2. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein determining whether said translation module is
2 installed in said printing device comprises determining whether a hardware module that
3 implements said logic is plugged into an interface of said printing device.

1 3. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein determining whether said translation module is
2 installed in said printing device comprises determining whether software that implements
3 said logic is stored on a rewritable data storage device of said printing device.

1 4. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said logic is implemented by one or more logical
2 modules, and wherein the printing device is further configured to select said one or more
3 logical modules from among a plurality of logical modules.

1 5. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said logic is implemented by one or more logical
2 modules, and wherein the printing device is further configured to perform steps
3 comprising:
4 receiving, through an operation panel of said printing device, user input; and
5 based on said user input, selecting said one or more logical modules from among a
6 plurality of logical modules.

1 6. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said logic is implemented by one or more logical
2 modules, and wherein the printing device is further configured to perform steps
3 comprising:
4 receiving said data; and
5 based on said data, selecting said one or more logical modules from among a plurality of
6 logical modules.

1 7. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said logic is implemented by one or more logical
2 modules, and wherein the printing device is further configured to perform steps
3 comprising:
4 receiving said data;
5 determining, from said data, a source of said data; and
6 based on said source, selecting said one or more logical modules from among a plurality
7 of logical modules.

1 8. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said logic is implemented by one or more logical
2 modules, and wherein the printing device is further configured to perform steps
3 comprising:
4 receiving input that specifies a new logical module that is not one of said one or more
5 logical modules;
6 in response to receiving said input, adding said new logical module to a plurality of
7 logical modules; and
8 selecting said one or more logical modules from among said plurality of logical modules.

1 9. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said logic, when invoked, performs steps
2 comprising:
3 determining whether said original command is indicated in a table specified by said
4 translation module; and
5 if said original command is contained in said table, then replacing said original command
6 with one or more substitute commands that are indicated in one or more rows that
7 indicate said original command.

1 10. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said translated command comprises said original
2 command and one or more additional commands.

1 11. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said logic, when invoked, removes one or more
2 parts of said original command that would cause said printing device to experience an
3 error.

1 12. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein the printing device is further configured to
2 perform steps comprising:
3 receiving one or more Internet Protocol (IP) packets that collectively indicate, in payload
4 sections of said one or more IP packets, said data, wherein said data indicates said
5 command but not a source of said one or more IP packets;
6 determining, from a header section of at least one of said one or more IP packets, a
7 source of said IP packets; and
8 updating said data to indicate said source.

1 13. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said original command indicates a first tray of
2 said printing device, wherein said one or more translated commands indicate a second
3 tray of said printing device, and wherein said one or more translated commands do not
4 indicate said first tray.

1 14. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said action is storing said data instead of printing
2 said data.

1 15. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said action is preventing said data from being
2 printed unless a source of said data matches at least one of one or more specified sources.

1 16. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said action is preventing said data from being
2 printed unless a source of said data matches at least one of one or more specified sources,
3 and wherein the printing device is further configured to perform steps comprising:
4 receiving a new specified source that is not one of said one or more specified sources;
5 and
6 in response to receiving said new specified source, adding said new specified source to
7 said one or more specified sources.

1 17. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said action is printing, on a same page on which
2 said data is printed, a pattern that becomes more perceptible to human eyes when said
3 pattern is photocopied.

1 18. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said logic is implemented by one or more logical
2 modules, and wherein the printing device is further configured to indicate, through a
3 display of said printing device, that said one or more logical modules can be selected.

1 19. The printing device of Claim 1, wherein said action is storing said data instead of printing
2 said data, and wherein the printing device is further configured to perform steps
3 comprising:
4 receiving, through an operation panel of said printing device, user input; and
5 if said user input matches a specified code, then printing data that has been stored instead
6 of printed.

1 20. A method comprising:

2 receiving, at a first module of a printing device, an original command that is intended to
3 cause said printing device to perform an action indicated by said original
4 command;

5 determining whether a translation module that implements logic for translating said
6 original command is installed in said printing device;

7 if said translation module is not installed in said printing device, then sending data that
8 comprises said original command directly from said first module to a second
9 module of said printing device;

10 if said translation module is installed in said printing device, then:

11 determining whether said original command, without translation, will cause said
12 printing device to perform said action;

13 if said original command, without translation, will cause said printing device to
14 perform said action, then sending said data directly from said first module
15 to said second module; and

16 if said original command, without translation, will not cause said printing device
17 to perform said action, then:

18 invoking said logic of said translation module to translate said original
19 command into one or more translated commands that will cause
20 said printing device to perform said action; and

21 sending said one or more translated commands to said second module.

1 21. A printing device configured to perform steps comprising:

2 receiving, at a first module of said printing device, an original command that is intended
3 to cause said printing device to perform an action indicated by said original
4 command;

5 determining whether a translation module that implements logic for translating said
6 original command is installed in said printing device;
7 if said translation module is not installed in said printing device, then sending data that
8 comprises said original command directly from said first module to a second
9 module of said printing device;
10 if said translation module is installed in said printing device, then performing steps
11 comprising:
12 invoking said logic of said translation module to translate said original command
13 into one or more translated commands that will cause said printing device
14 to perform said action; and
15 sending said one or more translated commands to said second module.

- 1 22. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for
2 managing a network of two or more printers, wherein execution of the one or more
3 sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more processors to
4 perform the steps of:
5 receiving, at a first module of said printing device, an original command that is intended
6 to cause said printing device to perform an action indicated by said original
7 command;
8 determining whether a translation module that implements logic for translating said
9 original command is installed in said printing device;
10 if said translation module is not installed in said printing device, then sending data that
11 comprises said original command directly from said first module to a second
12 module of said printing device;
13 if said translation module is installed in said printing device, then:

determining whether said original command, without translation, will cause said printing device to perform said action;
if said original command, without translation, will cause said printing device to perform said action, then sending said data directly from said first module to said second module; and
if said original command, without translation, will not cause said printing device to perform said action, then:
invoking said logic of said translation module to translate said original command into one or more translated commands that will cause said printing device to perform said action; and
sending said one or more translated commands to said second module.

23. A printing device comprising:
means for receiving, at a first module of said printing device, an original command that is intended to cause said printing device to perform an action indicated by said original command;
means for determining whether a translation module that implements logic for translating said original command is installed in said printing device;
means for sending data that comprises said original command directly from said first module to a second module of said printing device if said translation module is not installed in said printing device;
means for invoking, if said translation module is installed in said printing device, said logic of said translation module to translate said original command into one or more translated commands that will cause said printing device to perform said action; and

- 14 means for sending said one or more translated commands to said second module if said
- 15 translation module is installed in said printing device.